

2-1-7-1 Lewis, Jr.  
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31 January 1958

Fulton Lewis, Jr. at 7:00 P.M. over WGMS (Washington) and the Mutual Network:

LEWIS: "I have information here tonight, ladies and gentlemen, from my confidential sources inside the Free Europe organization in New York City, that there is considerable consternation and indignation reigning there as a result of the broadcasts that I have been doing about the organization and its activities, particularly the broadcasts of the last few nights--indignation and consternation even up to the point of a proposal to get up a petition among the employees of the Free Europe Committee demanding a clean-out of the whole picture from top to bottom, the firing of certain individuals responsible, the elimination of the whole Free Europe operation to make it what it should be for once.

"I am informed and I have corroborated these facts from several internal sources, that the indignation starts at the level of the porters, if you please, the messengers, and then goes all the way up the ranks to the top. I am also informed through some of the wiser and more responsible heads of the Crusade have been counseling for a long time that I should be called in and asked to prove my facts, but that General Willis Crittenberger, who slings President Eisenhower's name around as a close personal buddy, and refers to him as 'Ike'--'I told Ike this, I told Ike that,' ruled against it. Incidentally, for your information, nobody calls the President of the United States Ike, they call the President, Mr. President. Those who do know him well enough to call him by his first name, call him Dwight.

"Mr. Crittenberger, foolishly enough, thought that he could sit me out and that it would all die down and that I finally would give out of material. That was a sad mistake, because more and more material is pouring into me all the time and I have never handled any story in all my 35 years of reporting, in which there was such a tremendous nation-wide reaction as this one.

"There is an element in this Free Europe operation in New York that spends its time in gossip and imaginative hopeful wishful thinking and stating that Fulton, Lewis, Jr., doesn't know what he is talking about, that he is whistling in the dark, and there is an excellent example of it in connection with the Fletcher Bartholomew case.

"Word has been passed around in the last few days, that Richard Smith, Bartholomew's friend, whom I interviewed on two occasions, saw some of his old friends in Free Europe within the week and told them that he had urged me not to use the Fletcher Bartholomew story because it might hurt Bartholomew and that I had said that Fletcher Bartholomew is no concern of mine and that I was going to use the story anyway, with or without his permission.

"That is a lie out of the whole cloth, and I don't mean it's a lie on Dick Smith's part, I'm sure he never said it. It's a lie out of the whole cloth on the part of those in New York who say it and it illustrates the caliber and character of the people involved in this whole filthy scandal with funds milked out of the public under false pretenses.

"Fletcher Bartholomew and his family came to me in the first place. I never knew anything about him before I received an unsolicited letter from his mother saying that her son had been done a gross injustice, which certainly is abundantly true, and asking me to help. From the very first contact I told Mrs.--

Mr. Bartholomew that it was his decision and his decision alone as to whether the story was ever used and that any time he sees fit, he has only to say the word and I'll forget the whole thing.

"As of late Tuesday afternoon, the night I first opened up the story, I talked at length with him over the telephone, checking up on last minute details. Furthermore, I have before me a notarized document which is proof conclusive of my status in the case, dated January 17, 1958. It reads as follows: 'I hereby authorize the Surgeon General, Department of the Army, or his designated representative, to release the medical records and/or personnel records pertaining to the undersigned and on file in the office of the Surgeon General, or to release any information derived from the aforementioned records to'--and then in Fletcher Bartholomew's own handwriting is filled in the name 'Fulton Lewis, Jr.,' and it is signed, 'Fletcher Bartholomew.'

"The notary lists herself as 'Vivian (Quist?)'. Fletcher Bartholomew wants his name cleared and a job in which he can utilize his talents as a meteorologist and executive and with all this that has been stacked against him--illegally, I may say, because the army admits that even if he had voluntarily asked for hospitalization, they had no right to hospitalize him--he has had a rough time. His wife has had a rough time, his four children are having a rough time, and it all dates back to that report he turned in to Consul General Edward Page, Jr., in Munich, about suspected homosexuals in the Free Europe operation there and other things that were wrong in the organization. (ONE SECOND PAUSE--- APPARENTLY DEAD AIR) ---and has been successful up until the time I began my investigation. And now, when the truth is finally exposed, the few who were part and parcel to the conspiracy, are trying in their sneaky, underhanded way, to try and cast discredit on this exposure within their little clique there in New York to save their own hides. As a matter of fact, I talked to Mrs. Fletcher Bartholomew within the hour. She says that her husband--that she and her husband are deeply grateful.

"It may interest you to know that for the past several days, since last Saturday night, when it was announced that I am to be Mike Wallace's guest on his television program, tomorrow night at 10:00 o'clock, Eastern Standard Time, the ring leaders of this group have been proposing that somebody go to Mike Wallace in the name of the Free Europe Committee to try and persuade him not to ask any questions about this Free Europe story. It would have been a very foolish thing. Mike, I think, would have thrown the individual out in the alley bodily, but the plan was afoot, as certain top levels and only vetoed by one of the more responsible figures in the organization.

"Now, from here on, I want to direct my remarks to the employees of Free Europe in New York, and make a little suggestion. I know from my own first hand knowledge that the vast majority of you are fine, sincere, hard-working, God-fearing people, who hate what's going on and all the chicanery but can't do anything about it, but that's not so, you can. It won't do you any good to go to General Crittenger, because he has allowed the situation to continue and develop for 15 months that he's been on the job, and obviously, he's not interested.

"If you have a petition, however, if you want to write your personal protest and your identity will be protected, I can assure you of that, you can send such protest to the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee, United States Capitol, Washington, D.C., and ask that committee for a full, unbiased, total investigation of the Free Europe Committee and the Bartholomew case, and I have every reason to

believe that you will get it.

"It you--you could write to the President, I suppose, but General Grittenberger is supposedly a great pal of his, so presumably it would just get hopelessly lost in White House bureaucracy. But the Senate Internal Security Committee is the appropriate committee for an investigation and that is the spot to which to make your appeal. Senate Internal Security Subcommittee, United States Capitol, Washington, D.C.

"Good luck and Godspeed. Remember to identify yourself as a Free Europe employee. I'll have the news for you in just one minute."